train by 3 hours to cover the distance; and

(d) if not, what are the main hurdles in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Due to operational and resource constraints.

(c) and (d) Reduction in the journey time by 3 hours is not feasible at present due to operational exigencies.

Conversion of Railway lines in Rajasthan

296. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what progress has so far been made with regard to (1) Conversion of Pipase Road-Bilara M.G. Line into B. G. line, and (ii) Conversion of Merta City M. G. Line into B. G. Line and New-B. G. Lines from (i) Kolayat to Phalodi; (ii) Single Track from Jaisalmer-Hamira to Sanu Mines Area and (iii) New B. G. Line from Bhiwadi to link it Jaipur-Delhi-Ahmedabad B. G. Line; and

(b) whether State Government of Rajasthan has requested the Railway Board to expedite conversion of above M. G. Line to B. G. Line, if so, the time likely to be taken therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFAR SHARIEF): (a) The progress achieved so far for each of the item is

(i) General Manager, Northern Railway has just submitted a study report regarding conversion of Pipar Road-Bilara.

(ii) Conversion of Merta-City MG line into BG has been completed.

(iii) Traffic survey for Kolayat-Phlodi has been taken up.

(iv) Due to constraint of resources new line from Jaisalmer-Hamira to Sanu cannot be considered at present.

(v) There is at present no proposal to link Bhiwadi with Jaipur-Delhi-Ahmedabad.

(b) No, Sir.

Procurement of Railway Wagons

297. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the current financial year 1994-95 target of procurement of railway wagons and how much order has been placed; what are the names of unit with whom order has been placed quantity wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that many wagon fabricating units in West Bengal are facing closure due to non or inadequate placement of wagon order by the Railways; and

(c) whether it is a fact that Ministry of Railways has inducted two more units at Madras to make the situation worse in the wagon industry, if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Target for procurement of wagons for 1994-95 as budgeted is 18000 four wheelers. However, as traffic offerings to the Railways have not been picking up as per projections, and asset utilisation has improved, the requirement has reduced.